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ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTOR

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

In re:	§	
	§	
AMERGENT HOSPITALITY GROUP, INC.;	§	Case No. 24-42483-MXM-11
et al., <sup>1</sup>	§	(Jointly Administered)
	§	Chapter 11
Debtors.	§	

# MOTION FOR INTERIM AND FINAL ORDERS EXTENDING THE TIME TO ASSUME OR REJECT NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LEASES

NO HEARING WILL BE HELD ON THIS APPLICATIONUNLESS A WRITTEN RESPONSE IS FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT AT 501 W. 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROOM 147, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102 BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 14, 2024, WHICH IS AT LEAST 21 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SERVICE HEREOF.

ANY RESPONSE SHALL BE IN WRITING AND FILED WITH THE CLERK, AND A COPY SHALL BE SERVED UPON THE UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL FOR MOVANTS PRIOR TO THE DATE AND TIME SET FORTH HEREIN. IF A RESPONSE IS FILED A HEARING MAY BE HELD WITH NOTICE ONLY TO THE OBJECTING PARTY.

IF NO HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION IS TIMELY REQUESTED, THE RELIEF REQUESTED SHALL BE DEEMEDTO BE UNOPPOSED,

<sup>1</sup> The jointly administered debtors are Amergent Hospitality Group, Inc. (24-42483); I10/I20 Cuisine LLC (24-42482); LBB Acquisition, LLC (24-42484); LBB Acquisition 1 LLC (24-42485); LBB Platform LLC (24-42487); LBB Lake Oswego LLC (24-42489); LBB Progress Ridge LLC (24-42490); Noveno LLC (Alberta) (24-42491); Quinto LLC (Division) (24-42492); Sexto LLC (Waterfront) (24-42493); and Cuarto LLC (24-42494).

## AND THE COURT MAY ENTER AN ORDER GRANTING THE RELIEF SOUGHT

The above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby file this motion (the "Motion") for entry of a final order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, pursuant to Section 365(d)(4) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") extending the deadline within which the Debtors may assume or reject its unexpired leases of nonresidential real property (collectively, the "Leases") by ninety (90) days from November 15, 2024 through and including February 13, 2025. In support of this Motion, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 2. On July 18, 2204 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors filed petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are operating their businesses and managing their property as debtors in possession pursuant to Sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 3. A description of the Debtors' business and the reasons for the filing of these
  Chapter 11 cases are set forth in the first day declaration of Preston Miller (the "First Day
  Declaration"), which was filed on the Petition Date and is fully incorporated herein by reference.
- 4. The Debtors are parties to 11 Leases for restaurant locations, each of which is described in **Exhibit B** attached hereto. The Leases are valuable assets of the estates in that they

represent the primary ability of the Debtors to generate earnings. The Debtors are currently in the process of marketing the brands and restaurant locations for sale. However, that process is not complete. Accordingly, the Debtors request additional time to evaluate which of the Leases can be assumed and assigned or must be rejected.

## RELIEF REQUESTED

5. The Debtors request a final order pursuant to Section 365(d)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code extending the deadline (the "Assumption Deadline") within which the Debtors may assume or reject the Leases by ninety (90) days from November 15, 2024 through and including February 13, 2025. The Debtors further request entry of an interim order in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A1** extending the Assumption Deadline through any hearing required on the entry of a final order hereunder.

#### **BASIS FOR RELIEF**

- 6. Section 365(d)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code provides:
  - (a) Subject to subparagraph (B), an unexpired lease of nonresidential real property under which the debtor is the lessee shall be deemed rejected, and the trustee shall immediately surrender that nonresidential real property to the lessor, if the trustee does not assume or reject the unexpired lease by the earlier of—
  - (i) the date that is 120 days after the date of the order for relief; or
  - (ii) the date of the entry of an order confirming a plan.
  - (b) (i) The court may extend the period determined under subparagraph (A), prior to the expiration of the 120-day period, for 90 days on the motion of the trustee or lessor for cause.
  - (ii) If the court grants an extension under clause (i), the court may grant a subsequent extension only upon prior written consent of the lessor in each instance.
- 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(4)(A)-(B). In determining whether cause exists under Section 365(d)(4) to extend the deadline for a debtor to assume or reject nonresidential leases, courts consider the following factors:

- (A) Whether the debtor was paying for the use of the property;
- (B) Whether the debtor's continued occupation could damage the lessor beyond the compensation available under the Bankruptcy Code;
- (C) Whether the lease is the debtor's primary asset; and
- (D) Whether the debtor has had sufficient time to formulate a plan of reorganization.

South St. Seaport Ltd. P'shp. v. Burger Boys, Inc. (In re Burger Boys, Inc.), 94 F.3d 755, 761 (2d Cir. 1996) (citations omitted); see also Channel Home Ctrs Inc., 989 F.2d 682, 689 (3d Cir. 1993) ("nothing prevents a bankruptcy court from granting an extension because a particular debtor needs additional time to determine whether the assumption or rejection of particular leases is called for by the plan of reorganization that it is attempting to develop"). This list is not exhaustive, and, in some cases, additional factors may warrant consideration such as the complexity of the case, the number of leases, and the need for judicial determination of whether a lease exists. Burger Boys, 94 F.3d at 761.

7. Here, there is more than sufficient cause to extend the deadline. The Debtors are continuing to make payments of postpetition rents in accordance with Section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code. All postpetition rent has been paid in the postpetition month in which it accrues.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the Debtors' continued occupation would not damage the lessor parties to the Leases. The Debtors have and will continue to perform their undisputed postpetition obligations under the Leases. The Leases are also valuable assets of the Debtors' estates and are essential to the Debtors' business.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> An exception is the Boudreaux's Willowbrook lease, where no postpetition rent has been paid. The Debtor is currently in discussions with the landlord thereof on an agreed order regarding the disposition of this location. If an extension is sought to be granted with respect to Willowbrook, the Debtor will seek consent of the Landlord.

- 8. The Debtors are in the early stages of their bankruptcy cases and, due to the withdrawal of its proposed DIP lender, have not had sufficient time to market the brands and lease locations or to formulate a plan. The Debtors need additional time to evaluate the Leases and their business operations.
- 9. For the reasons set forth above, the Debtors respectfully submit that cause exists to extend the deadline to assume or reject the Leases as requested herein.

## **PROCEDURE**

- 10. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made to this or any other Court.
- 11. Notice of this Motion has been provided as described below to each of the Landlords and to the Short Service List established in this case. Debtors submit that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

#### **CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request the entry of an order (i) substantially in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** and (ii) granting such other and further relief as the Court may determine to be just and proper.

Dated: October 24, 2024 Respectfully Submitted,

CM LAW PLLC

By: /s/ Richard Grant

Lynnette R. Warman Texas Bar No. 20867940 Richard G. Grant Tex. Bar No. 08302650

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that he has transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing (a)via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system to all persons participating therein on October 24, 2024; (b) via United States First Class Mail, postage prepaid, on October 24, 2024 to each of the mailing addresses indicated on the service list attached hereto (the "Short Service List") and also to the mailing addresses for the Landlords indicated on Exhibit B attached hereto (the "Landlord Service List"); and (c) via electronic mail on October 24, 2024 to the email addresses indicated on the Short Service List and the Landlord Service List.

/s/ Richard Grant

Richard G. Grant

## Exhibit A Proposed Final Order

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

In re:	§	
	§	
AMERGENT HOSPITALITY GROUP, INC.;	§	Case No. 24-42483-MXM-11
et al., <sup>3</sup>	§	(Jointly Administered)
	§	Chapter 11
Debtors.	§	-

## FINAL ORDER EXTENDING THE TIME TO ASSUME OR REJECT NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LEASES

Upon the motion, dated October 24, 2024 (the "Motion"), of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors"), for entry of an order, pursuant to Section 365(d)(4) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), extending the deadline within which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The jointly administered debtors are Amergent Hospitality Group, Inc. (24-42483); I10/I20 Cuisine LLC (24-42482); LBB Acquisition, LLC (24-42484); LBB Acquisition 1 LLC (24-42485); LBB Platform LLC (24-42487); LBB Lake Oswego LLC (24-42489); LBB Progress Ridge LLC (24-42490); Noveno LLC (Alberta) (24-42491); Quinto LLC (Division) (24-42492); Sexto LLC (Waterfront) (24-42493); and Cuarto LLC (24-42494).

the Debtors may assume or reject its unexpired leases of nonresidential real property by ninety (90) days, as more fully described in the Motion; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; and consideration of the Motion and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and that venue of this proceeding and the Motion is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and due and proper notice of the Motion, and the hearing thereon, having been provided, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the Court having held a hearing on the Motion (the "Hearing"); and the Court having determined that the relief requested in the Motion is appropriate pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(4); and the Court having found and determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before the Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Debtors are hereby GRANTED an extension of the period within which the Debtors may assume or reject the Debtors' unexpired leases of nonresidential real property (under which the Debtors are lessees) by an additional 90 days, up to and including February 13, 2025 without prejudice to the Debtors' right to seek further extensions with the consent of the affected lessors as contemplated by 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(4)(B)(ii).
- 2. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

\*\*\* END OF ORDER \*\*\*

## Submitted by:

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COUNSEL FOR DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

# Exhibit A1 Proposed Interim Order

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

In re:	§	
	§	
AMERGENT HOSPITALITY GROUP, INC.;	§	Case No. 24-42483-MXM-11
et al., <sup>4</sup>	§	(Jointly Administered)
	§	Chapter 11
Debtors.	§	_

# INTERIM ORDER EXTENDING THE TIME TO ASSUME OR REJECT NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LEASES

Upon the motion, dated October 24, 2024 (the "Motion"), of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors"), for entry of an interim order, pursuant to Section 365(d)(4) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), extending the deadline within which the Debtors may assume or reject its unexpired leases of nonresidential real property by ninety (90) days, as more fully described in the Motion; and the Court having

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The jointly administered debtors are Amergent Hospitality Group, Inc. (24-42483); I10/I20 Cuisine LLC (24-42482); LBB Acquisition, LLC (24-42484); LBB Acquisition 1 LLC (24-42485); LBB Platform LLC (24-42487); LBB Lake Oswego LLC (24-42489); LBB Progress Ridge LLC (24-42490); Noveno LLC (Alberta) (24-42491); Quinto LLC (Division) (24-42492); Sexto LLC (Waterfront) (24-42493); and Cuarto LLC (24-42494).

jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Debtors are hereby GRANTED an extension of the period within which the Debtors may assume or reject the Debtors' unexpired leases of nonresidential real property (under which the Debtors are lessees) through entry of an order following final hearing on the Motion.
- 2. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

## \*\*\* END OF ORDER \*\*\*

## Submitted by:

Richard G. Grant CM LAW PLLC National Litigation Support Center 13101 Preston Road, Suite 110-1510 Dallas, Texas 75240 Telephone: 214-210-2929

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COUNSEL FOR DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

Exhibit B - Lease Information								$\overline{}$				
Store	Tenant	Alt Name	Brand	Location	Landlord	Street 1	Street 2	City	State	Zip	Email	Counsel email
501 - Little Big Burger Alberta	Noveno LLC	Noveno	LBB	2038 NE Alberta St Portland, OR 97211	PDX Metro Commercial, LLC Little Big Burger Alberta	2105 NE Cesar E Chevez Blvd	Suite #220	Portland	OR	97212	cgilbert@windermere.com	
503 - Little Big Burger Division	Quinto LLC	Quinto	LBB	3810 SE Division St Portland, OR 97202	Affinity Property Management - Little Big Burger Division	6520 Earl Avenue NW		Seattle	WA	98117	tim@overlandrealestate.net	
504 - Little Big Burger Eugene	Cuarto LLC	Cuarto	LBB	1404 Orchard St Suite B Eugene, OR 97403	Courtside - UCAL, LLC - Little Big Burger Eugene	1425 Villard St		Eugene	OR	97403	Dennis.Dayan@gsagroup.co	burrerk@gtlaw.com
512 - Little Big Burger Platform	LBB Platform, LLC	Orenco		940 NE Orenco Station Loop Hillboro, OR 97214	Hub 9 - Little Big Burger Platform	1111 Main Street, Suite 700		Vancouver	WA	98660	mholtze@hollandpartnergrou p.com	
513 - Little Big Burger Progress Ridge	LBB Progress Ridge, LLC		LBB	12345 SW Horizon Blvd., Ste 41 Beaverton, OR 97007	DSRG LP - Little Big Burger Progress Ridge	DSRG - Progress Ridge	PO BOX 664001	Dallas	TX	75266	jalexander@sussmanshank.c om	
517 - Little Big Burger Waterfront	Sexto LLC	Sexto	LBB	3720 SW Bond Ave Portland, OR 97239	The Ardea - Mept 3720 Portland - Little Big Burger Waterfront	3720.SW Bond Ave. #150		Portland	OR	97239	ardeamgr@greystar.com; MikeA@secprop.com	Garrett.Ledgerwood@mille nash.com
518 - Little Big Burger Lake Oswego	LBB Lake Oswego LLC		LBB	300T Lake Oswego, OR	RREEF AMERICA REIT II CORP GG - Little Big Burger Lake Oswego	19350 NW Emma Way, Hillsboro, OR 97124; 200 Crescent Crt #510, Dallas, TX 75201					michele.baker@am.jll.com	zarnighiann@ballardspahr. com
701 - Boudreaux West Loop	I10/I20 Cuisine LLC	Galleria	ВСК	5475 W. Loop South Suite 100, Houston TX	Pin Oak LTD	8554 KATY FREEWAY #301		HOUSTON	TX	77024	bernice@freewayproperties.n et	jsd@aol.com
702 - Boudreaux Woodridge	I10/I20 Cuisine LLC	Gulfgate	BCK	100 Gulfgate Mall, Houston, TX 77087	Houston Gulfgate Partners, L.P.	PO BOX 203354		DALLAS	TX	75320- 3354	htaylor@wulfe.com	eric.haitz@bondsellis.com
703 - Boudreaux Willowbrook	I10/I20 Cuisine LLC	Tomball	ВСК	17595 Tomball Pkwy., Houston TX 77064	Willowbrook I Limited Partnership	6372 Santa Monica Blvd		Los Angeles	CA	90038	ncramer@newquest.com	ikennedy@nathansommers .com
401 - Jaybee's Chicken Palace	Amergent Hospitality Group Inc.		JB	11875 N Jantzen Dr Portland, OR 97217	DKOOP Properties, LLC	5745 SW Arrowwood Ln		Portland	OR	97225	dkoop@comcast.net	kswan@bittner-hahs.com
403 - The Nest	Amergent Hospitality Group Inc.		JB	11875 N Jantzen Dr Portland, OR 97217	DKOOP Properties, LLC	5745 SW Arrowwood Ln		Portland	OR	97225	dkoop@comcast.net	kswan@bittner-hahs.com
405 - The Roost	Amergent Hospitality Group Inc.		JB	11875 N Jantzen Dr Portland, OR 97217	DKOOP Properties, LLC	5745 SW Arrowwood Ln		Portland	OR	97225	dkoop@comcast.net	kswan@bittner-hahs.com